Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention relates to an austenitic stainless steel that has good formability and is less susceptible to cracking during forming, and also relates to a method of manufacturing thereof.

On page 1, before line 9, please insert the following section heading:

2. Description of Related Art

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention proposes a new austenitic stainless steel less susceptible to cracking during forming, which has the composition consisting of C up to 0.04 mass %, 0.1-1 mass % Si, Mn up to 5.0 mass %, S up to 0.0060 mass %, Al up to 0.003 mass %, 5-9 mass % Ni, 15-20 mass % Cr, N up to 0.035 mass %, 1.0-5.0 mass % Cu and the balance being Fe except inevitable impurities. Nonmetallic MnO-SiO_2-Al_2O_3 inclusions, which contains not less than 15 mass % of SiO_2 and not more than 40 mass % of Al_2O_3, is dispersed as fine particles in a steel matrix.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The inventors have searched and examined effects of deoxidizing and refining conditions on formability of an austenitic stainless steel sheet containing approximately 0-0.4 mass % C, approximately 0.1-1.0 mass % Si, approximately 0-5.0 mass % Mn, approximately 5-9 mass % Ni, approximately 15-20 mass % Cr, approximately 0-0.035 mass % N, approximately 0-0.0060 mass % S and approximately 1.0-5.0 mass % Cu. After the austenitic stainless steel was deoxidized and refined in various conditions, it was hot-rolled and cold-rolled to a thickness of approximately 0.3 mm.